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Senate

The Senate met at 9:45 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, our day is filled with challenges and decisions. In the quiet of this magnificent moment of conversation with You we dedicate this day. We want to live it to Your glory.

We praise You that it is Your desire to give Your presence and blessings to those who ask You. You give strength and power to Your people when we seek You above anything else. You guide the humble and teach them Your way. Help us to humble ourselves as we begin this day so that no self-serving agenda or self-aggrandizing attitude will block Your blessings to us or to our Nation through us. Speak to us so that we may speak with both the tenor of Your truth and the tone of Your grace.

Make us maximum by Your spirit for the demanding responsibilities and relationships of this day. We say with the Psalmist, *God, be merciful to us and bless us, and cause Your face to shine upon us, that Your way may be known on earth, Your salvation among the nations.*—Psalm 67:1-2. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able acting majority leader, Senator COCHRAN of Mississippi, is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1033, the agriculture appropriations bill.

By previous consent, there will be 10 minutes of debate equally divided between Senator COCHRAN and Senator WELLSTONE on the Wellstone amendment regarding school breakfast outreach.

Also, by consent, at 10 a.m., the Senate will proceed to a series of rollcall votes on the remaining amendments to the agriculture appropriations bill, including final passage.

Following disposition of the agriculture appropriations bill, it is the intention of the majority leader to proceed to consideration of the transportation appropriations bill.

Therefore, Members can anticipate additional rollcall votes throughout today's session of the Senate.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS, 1998

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWNBACK). Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of S. 1033, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1033) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill.

Pending:

Wellstone amendment No. 972, to provide funds for outreach and startup of the school breakfast program.

AMENDMENT NO. 972

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By previous order, we have 10 minutes on the Wellstone amendment: 5 minutes controlled by the Senator from Minnesota and 5 minutes controlled by the floor manager of the bill.

Who seeks time?

Mr. WELLSTONE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Greg

Renden, an intern in my office, be allowed to be on the floor for the duration of today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WELLSTONE. I thank the Chair.

Mr. President, I offered this amendment last night. We had a fairly thorough discussion. I don't think this is an adversarial relationship with my colleague from Mississippi.

Let me just briefly summarize.

This amendment revives what is called the Outreach and Start Up Grant Program for school breakfasts. Let me point out to my colleagues what this is about.

This is a Children's Defense Fund poster. "Remember these hungry kids in China? Now they are in Omaha." They could be in any of our States.

We have 5.5 million American children who do not regularly get enough to eat. There was a \$5 million outreach program that we eliminated last year in the welfare bill. I don't think colleagues knew what they were voting on. They did when it came to the overall welfare bill. But this was one tiny provision.

The argument that was made about this outreach program was that it was too successful. That is to say, we have 8 million children who could qualify for the School Breakfast Program but don't receive it because many school districts and States aren't yet able to set it up.

This \$5 million outreach program made a huge difference. It was very successful, and, indeed, the School Breakfast Program is credited as being one of the most successful nutritional programs in our country.

I fear that too many of my colleagues do not understand that there are children in our country who go to school hungry, and we are not doing very much about it. When children go to

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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